

The Women's Quiet Hour.

The Boy Crop.

How's the boy crop, neighbor?
What's the chances uv it?
Is it rootin' deep an' sound
In Life's rich an' meller ground?
Is it growin' rank an' strong
Is it comin' right along
With fair skies above it?

What's the boy crop, neighbor,
Is the rains the growin' kind?
Do they keep in yer mind?
Do you ever stop to see
If its growing thriftily?
Do you sort o' love it?

Got a boy crop neighbor?
Air ye thinkin' uv it?
Air ye givin' it a show
Fer to thicken up an' grow
Into manhood strong an' true
Such that you'll be proud that you
Was the grower uv it?

—Hugh J. Hughes.

These quaint and rather unmusical verses came to me the other day in an exchange and I felt the sentiment it not the metre would find an echo in the heart of every mother in the West. The struggle of trying to make ends meet under the strenuous conditions of a new country, has rather had the effect of pulling material things into prominence wholly out of proportion to their true value and both the boy and the girl crop have been somewhat neglected. In many cases I know it could not be helped, but in others the desire to possess "just another quarter section" has been allowed to interfere with the education of both boys and girls, parents seeming to forget that while for many years at least it will be possible to get more land by paying a little higher price for it, there is only a few years in which it is possible for a boy or girl to acquire an education, no matter what the price paid for it.

Domestic Science Course

The agricultural college is again taking up the question of the Domestic Science course for young women. The scheme which has been worked out by Principal Black, being to have a course for girls immediately following the close of the course for boys. In this way the present dormitories would be available and in the dairy and administration buildings could be found sufficient room for installing the special equipment for instruction. Of course this is to be merely a temporary arrangement until such time as the Provincial Government provides money for the erection of large permanent buildings for the women. The Board are of the opinion that if this short course is well attended and real interest shown by the women and

girls in the training thus offered, it will be much easier to obtain the necessary grant for the erection of permanent buildings.

I asked the Board if they did not think the summer would be an awkward time for the girls and young women to leave the farm, but they declared to a man that the work of the women on the farms was no greater in May than it was in January, February and March and the girls could be spared well enough. The only goes to show how fond the male biped is of expressing his opinion freely on a something which he quite evidently knows nothing about. Personally I am sure that it will require great personal sacrifice for mothers to spare their daughters during these months, but I am equally sure that if the sacrifice is made, and these classes well filled, it will have the effect of hastening the day when proper buildings will be erected in which it will be possible to carry on the work at the most suitable season of the year. To attain this end is worth considerable effort, and effort for the benefit of their families has been the slogan of western women ever since there were women on the prairies. It is the intention of the Board to put in wood as well as gas cookstoves and in every way to make the equipment of such a character that what the girl learns in the college can immediately and without difficulty be adapted to the equipment on the home farm. The college will be a help to the girls not merely in the matter of helpful instruction in Domestic Science but in the companionship in effort and the talking over of different methods and the great stimulus of competition. It is amazing the help that lies in striving with others for the mastery. The hardest part of the work on the farm in many cases is the sense of isolation. Field grain competitions, plowing matches, stock judging competitions, have all helped farmers to draw together and realize the bond of a common struggle for mastery, but there has been nothing among women to take the place of these competitions. The housewife who has kept her home neat under difficulties, who has planned her work well and carried out her plans efficiently has missed the satisfaction, one of the keenest known to humanity, of showing her neighbors and friends the result of her labors in competition with others and though Domestic Science classes in Winnipeg may provide no direct competitive outlook for the housewife herself, she will have the satisfaction of seeing the results of her training expressed by her girls in these competitions.

There will also be the pleasure and stimulus of having new methods and ideas introduced into the home.

Getting Into a Rut

For the simple reason that each woman does her work in her own home, apart from other women, there is more danger of dropping into ruts in housework than there is in almost any other line of employment.

It has been my fortune to travel over a great part of the Canadian West, and being fond of housework and having had a good deal of practical experience I have given a hand with it, and discussed the doing of it in many scores of homes. With the utmost truth I can say that the most slatternly and inefficient housewife I have come across has always been able to teach me something, though peradventure it has only been something to avoid. Without boasting I think I can as truthfully say that rarely have I talked with a housewife without being able to tell her something along the line of her work that she did not know before and which she frankly confessed would be useful to her.

Close observation of myself and also of other women has led me to the conclusion that it is almost instinctive with women to think that any departure from the method they have been accustomed to must necessarily be wrong. This is a most erroneous idea which more frequent intercourse with others doing the same line of work will very quickly dispel. The mere trying of new methods is in itself a break in the monotony of housework and quite six times out of seven the new methods are better than the old. Simply because a method differs from the one your mother and grandmother used should not be sufficient to damn it without a trial. Men claim, and with some show of reason that nearly all appliances for lightening the work of the house have come from men and not from women, who should be the most interested in labor-saving methods. Any dealer in such articles will tell you that it is infinitely easier to get a man to try a new kind of plow or binder than it is to get a woman to try a new kind of washing machine.

It is this slowness in trying new methods and appliances that very largely accounts for housework having come to be looked upon as drudgery. All the ills of housework on prairie farms, where the maximum of labor is often expended with the minimum of result, will not be ameliorated by the establishment of a school of domestic science at the agricultural college, but it is a move in the right direction and such should receive the cordial approval, and where possible, the hearty and practical approval of the woman of the West.

Don't Marry a Man If He Drinks

This was the refrain of a temperance song, very popular when I was a school girl and I was reminded of it the other day by a query addressed to an American farm paper, about "marrying a man to reform him?" It seems scarcely possible in this day that any girl or young woman can still be carried away by this conceit, for it is conceit. As one writer has very tersely put it, "marrying a man to reform him is like getting up on a table and trying to lift a heavier weight up to where you are standing. Can't do it, can you? No, but try to lift the weight from the table to the floor and see how easily it can be done." The lesson of this quotation is too obvious to require comment. In a case of this kind it has always seemed to me that the question a woman or girl should ask herself is, "dare I risk this for the children that may come of such a union?" If it were possible for a woman to say "I love this man so well that I am willing to risk my life and my health to help him to reform it might be right for her to do what she liked with her own life. But marriage means more than the woman and the man, it always carries with it the probability of a family. The rightful heritage of every child called into being is a sound mind in a sound body, and how can this be possible where a woman marries a man to reform him. We progress very slowly in the matter of transmissible disease, but we have got far enough to prevent the marriage of people known to be insane, idiotic, or with such a disease as leprosy, for example. There is quite as positive evidence that a taste for liquor can be and is transmitted, as that insanity, idiocy, or leprosy is transmitted but so far governments have made no attempt to prevent the marriage of the habitual drinker or drunkard, yet one is as dangerous to posterity as the other. How a woman can marry a man who she has once seen drunk, passes comprehension, but whatever a woman may be willing to risk for herself, first, last and all the time she has absolutely no right to risk bringing into the world children handicapped from the start because of the vices and the appetite of their father. When the desire to reform the drunken and vicious man by marrying him comes upon a woman just remember it is not yourself alone you are taking the risk for. Another thing to remember is that if a man does not care sufficiently for a girl to reform for the sake of marriage with her, the chances are only a thousand to one that he will reform afterwards. This form of missionary effort shows a marvellously small percentage of returns.



"SHEEP NIBBLING"

Two of the remarkable \$40,000 gallery of rare paintings to be shown at the Winnipeg Exhibition July 10-17.



"WHEN THE HEART IS YOUNG"

medals at Amsterdam and Paris and a gold medal at Munich. The picture "sheep nibbling," by Herman Johannes Von der Weel, has won silver